

Union Hotel
1024-1028 2nd Street
Sacramento
Sacramento County
California

HABS No. CAL-187

HABS,
CAL,
34-SAC,
41-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

PHOTOGRAPH - DATA BOOK REPORT
Historic American Buildings Survey

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41-SAC,
41-

THE UNION HOTEL
SACRAMENTO, SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Address: 1024-1028 Second Street.
Occupancy: Originally a first class hotel.
Use: Presently a cheap rooming house with lunch counters, barber shop
etc. on the ground floor.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The existing structure is all that remains of the original Union Hotel built on this site in 1855 and replacing the Verandah Hotel that had occupied the site from 1852 until 1855. The Union Hotel and the Orleans Hotel, immediately adjacent to the north, were the social, political and business centers of Sacramento until 1870. They were the headquarters of the stagecoach lines and but a block from the waterfront and the river steamboat lines. They formed the hub for business and travel and provided meeting places for civic and political gatherings.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The present structure is the second to have been called the Union Hotel in Sacramento; the first having been built in 1850 at 217 "J" Street. The Verandah it replaced was also the second of that name; the first having been built in 1850 at 72 Front Street.

G.L.Tucker had built the Verandah on Second Street in 1852 and in March of 1855 the property was acquired by J.P.Dyer who rebuilt the structure as the Union Hotel, the name it bears to the present day.

J.P.Dyer, from Maine, had started business in Sacramento in 1852 as a coal merchant with a yard at "L" and Second Streets. Upon becoming proprietor of the Verandah the coal business was turned over to his brother, A.P.Dyer; J.P. devoting his time to the new hotel venture.

The Sacramento Directory for 1855 first mentions Dyer's ownership of the Verandah and gives an account of the "rebuilding" and refurnishing. The name was not changed to the "Union Hotel" until 1856. The Directory for this latter year describes the structure as being three stories in height with a front of sixty feet on Second Street and an ell of three stories and a front of twenty feet on "K" Street. The ground floor of this ell on "K" Street still remains and is known as the Union Hotel Annex, HABS No. Cal#185.

J.P.Dyer became Mayor of Sacramento in 1857 and maintained ownership of the Union Hotel until 1864 during Sacramento's most active early political days and the period of most common use of stage and river boat by the traveling public to and from the mines and San Francisco.

Upon Dyer's death in 1864 the Union Hotel became the property of Lansing and Gover. Over the last hundred years the hotel has changed hands many times.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

A wood-cut of the original Veranda(h) Hotel in the Sacramento Directory for 1853 shows a three story structure noted as having been "built of brick....60 feet front....", with a wood railed balcony at the second floor supported on wood posts and open to the sky. All three floors are shown fenestrated by seven openings; the second and third floor windows being casement type with simple, flat, unadorned heads. The front facade is shown terminated by a brick cornice the only ornamentation of which being a brick dentil course.

A lithograph of 1857, after J.P.Dyer had "rebuilt" the hotel as the "Union", shows the original fenestration of seven openings on each floor had been retained; the window openings on both second and third floors, however, being crowned with moulded cornices supported on console brackets and the front facade embellished by a heavily bracketed cornice surmounted by a parapet wall, the center panel of which carried the name, " UNION HOTEL ". A wood railed balcony at the second floor was carried on what appears to have been round, slender cast-iron columns. A wrought-iron railed balcony at the third floor was carried on brackets extending out from the face of the building.

As recently as 1937 the main cornice and ornamental window heads remained, as did the upper two floors of the Annex on "K" Street.

With the decline of Second Street as a desirable location for any business enterprise the Union Hotel has fallen more and more into neglect. All of the original architectural ornamental features have disappeared. The entire ground floor fenestration has been so altered to provide for shops, restaurants etc. as to leave no indication of the original facade. The balconies at both upper floors are gone as is the main cornice. Although the seven original window openings of both upper floors remain the casements have been replaced with modern, double-hung sash. Nothing remains of the original interior hotel accommodations. The original plan lay-outs of all floors have been repartitioned many times to provide several stores on the ground floor and a maximum of small bedrooms for a cheap rooming house on the upper two floors.

REFERENCES

1. Sacramento Directories; 1850 - 1870.
2. Sacramento Guide Book; Bee, 1939.
3. Old Sacramento; Part II, State of California, 1958.

Prepared by,

April 1969.

Clyde F. Trudell, Architect

THE UNION HOTEL,
1024-1028 Second Street,
Sacramento, Sacramento County,
California.

HABS NO. CAL-187

VERANDAH HOTEL,

Second Street between J and K,

— AND —

K, between Front and Second,

SACRAMENTO.

The Proprietor would beg leave to call the attention of citizens and the traveling public to the above old established house, which has been entirely rebuilt, and furnished in the most elegant and comfortable manner, not surpassed in this respect by ANY HOUSE of the kind in the country.

The building is entirely FIRE PROOF, having a front of sixty feet on Second Street, with a wing on K Street three stories in height.

THE GROUND FLOOR is set apart for SALOON, READING ROOM, RESTAURANT, ETC., and fronts on Second and K Streets.

THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS are set apart for BILLIARD ROOM, PARLORS, FAMILY AND SINGLE CHAMBERS, with private entrance on K Street, and are unsurpassed in point of comfort.

This Hotel is situated in the most central part of the city, within one square of the STEAMBOAT LANDING, and the depot of Stage offices for all the interior.

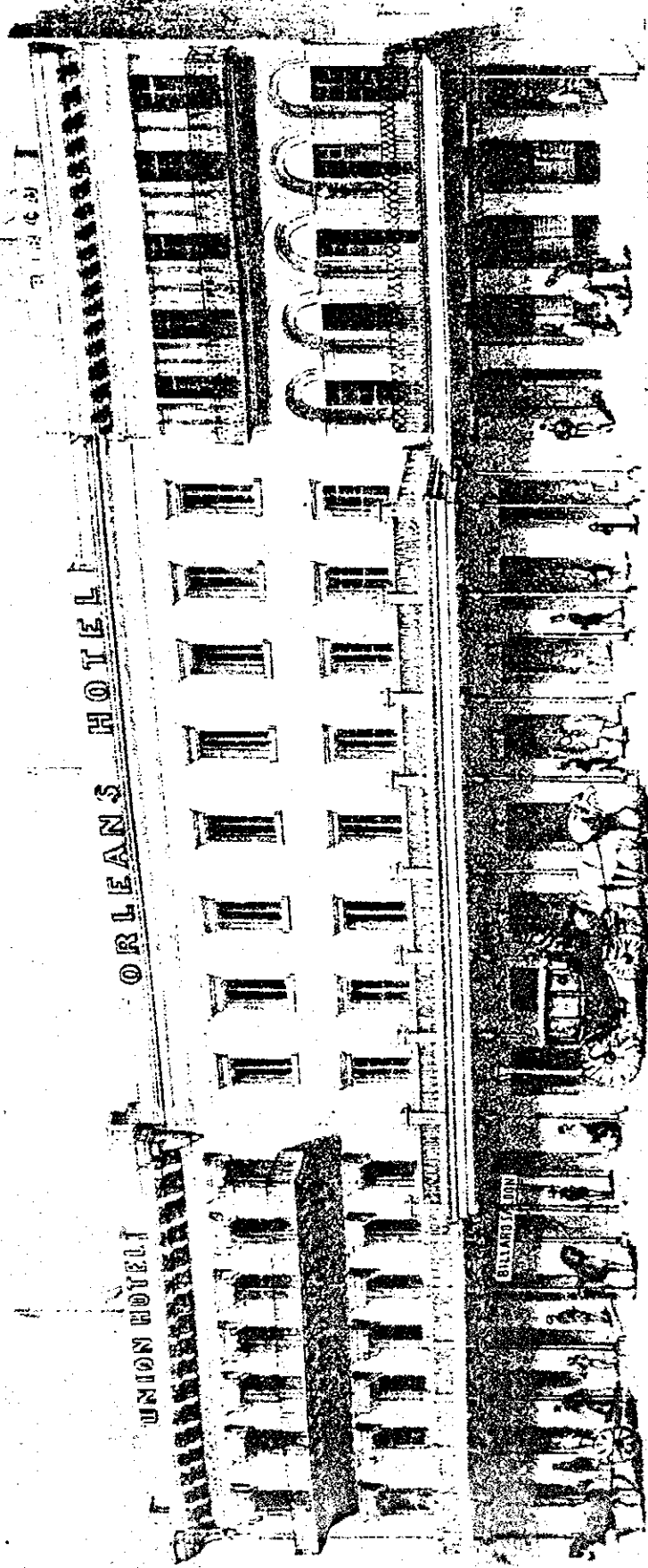
The House is open at all hours, and passengers arriving by the boats or stages, can be accommodated with rooms.

J. P. DYER, Proprietor.

SACRAMENTO DIRECTORY 1855

THE UNION HOTEL,
1024-1028 Second Street,
Sacramento, Sacramento county,
California

HABS NO. CAL-187



Property of J. P. Dyer (Mayor of Sac.)

Property of J. R. Hardenburg (Ex-Mayor of Sac.)

Property of Ja' Birch

WEST SIDE OF SECOND STREET BETWEEN J AND K, 1857

THE UNION HOTEL AND UNION HOTEL ANNEX,
1024-1028 Second Street & 125 "K" Street,
Sacramento, Sacramento County,
California.

HABS NOS. CAL-185 & 187



Bank Exchange Building and Union Hotel, 1937